NOAA FY 2000 Budget Request Fact Sheet

CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE

State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff

NOAA requests $12.0 million in FY 2000, an increase of $4 million from FY 1999, to provide funding to coastal states with approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs to fully develop and implement their Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. This will significantly improve their ability to manage polluted runoff and reduce coastal water pollution. State Partnerships to Reduce Polluted Runoff is a key component of NOAA's FY 2000 Clean Water Initiative, with the other components being the Control of Harmful Algal Blooms and the Coastal Resource Coordination program. The Clean Water Initiative is a modest investment to help restore and protect our valuable coastal waters that support billions of dollars of economic activities every year through tourism, recreation and commercial fishing.

NOAA Budget	FY 2000 Request $ M
National Ocean Service	
Ocean Resources Conservation & Assessment	
(Coastal Resource Coordination)	1.0
(Control of Harmful Algal Blooms)	9.0
Ocean & Coastal Management	
(Reduce Polluted Runoff)	12.0
NOAA Clean Water Initiative- - Total	**22.0**

The Problem of Coastal Polluted Runoff

From outbreaks of *Pfiesteria piscicida* in the coastal waters of the eastern seaboard to the effects of nutrient over-enrichment in the Gulf of Mexico to the loss of salmon fisheries in the Pacific northwest, coastal waters are under increasing pressure from polluted runoff. According to state water quality reports, 62% of the surveyed estuarine waters have good water quality that fully supports designated uses. However, of these waters, 4% are threatened and may deteriorate if we fail to manage potential sources of pollution. Some form of pollution or habitat degradation impairs the remaining 38% of the surveyed estuarine waters.

- Coastal areas are the most developed in the nation. Population density along the coast is 341 people per square mile, 4 times the national average. This narrow fringe, comprising 17% of the contiguous U.S. land area, is home to more than 53% of the nation's population.
- Urban runoff and storm sewers are the most widespread source of pollution in the Nation's surveyed estuarine waters. According to the States, agricultural pollution problems affect 25% of all rivers and streams surveyed, and contribute to 70% of all water quality problems identified in rivers and streams.

Coastal development generates nonpoint pollution

- During 1995, U.S. ocean, bay and Great Lakes beaches were closed, or advisories were issued against swimming, on more than 3,522 occasions.
- When state managers close or otherwise restrict a shellfish growing area, they typically cite one or more sources of fecal coliform bacteria and other potential contaminants as the reason. In 1995, the most common pollution source cited was urban runoff; identified as a principal or contributing factor in 40% of all harvest-limited growing areas.

Responding to Problem

In 1998, NOAA and EPA completed review of state programs to reduce polluted runoff in coastal areas. They found that, while states have many of the tools they need, there is still progress to be made in developing state capabilities to solve polluted runoff problems, and there is much work to be done to ensure successful implementation. NOAA will use the $12 million

requested under the Clean Water Initiative to assist coastal states in completing their plans and moving ahead to implement coastal polluted runoff prevention and reduction activities. These funds will provide coastal states with the resources they need to make inroads in the reduction of coastal nonpoint pollution.

Completing the Framework to Manage Coastal Polluted Runoff

Twenty-nine CZM states have received conditional approval of their coastal polluted runoff programs, with certain portions of these programs needing further development. In addition, four states that have either recently or will soon join the Coastal Zone Management program (Texas, Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota) need resources to fully develop approvable Coastal Nonpoint Programs. NOAA is requesting $6 million for Coastal Nonpoint Program grants, an increase of $2 million from FY 1999, to provide all coastal states with the resources to finish developing the institutional framework that will enable them to administer effective polluted runoff control management measures.

Implementing Successful Coastal Polluted Runoff Programs

NOAA is requesting $6 million, an increase of $2 million from FY 1999, for Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Enhancement Grants to enable states to implement their Coastal Nonpoint Programs. Funds would be used by coastal states to prevent and reduce impacts from polluted runoff on coastal habitats, coastal waters, coastal economies and human health in the coastal zone. These grants will accelerate the implementation of on-the-ground management measures and leverage other state and local resources working to control the flow of polluted runoff into coastal waters. This funding will complement the resources EPA and USDA are providing to their partners, the state water quality and agriculture agencies, thereby providing a comprehensive program that relies on the combined strength of all state resource management agencies. CZM programs need these funds to play an appropriate role in the efforts necessary to control coastal nonpoint pollution.

NOAA's Role

There isn't a smoking gun to explain the environmental problems that cause outbreaks of *Pfiesteria* and other impacts of polluted runoff on coastal waters — in effect, we are all part of the problem. Recognizing this fundamental aspect of nonpoint source pollution, Congress enacted the Coastal Nonpoint Program of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. The Coastal Nonpoint Program establishes a technology-based approach for dealing with polluted runoff. It generally consists of using techniques that have been proven successful in managing sources of polluted runoff before they impact coastal waters. These measures include such techniques as erosion control, nutrient management, stormwater management, and protection of sensitive areas. The measures are detailed in guidance that addresses a broad spectrum of nonpoint pollution sources, including agriculture, forest harvesting activities, urban runoff, marinas, impacts associated with the construction and maintenance of dams and channels, and other alterations of natural systems, thereby controlling the most significant sources of land runoff.

NOAA administers the Coastal Nonpoint Program in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and states with approved CZM programs. NOAA provides funding, technical assistance, and evaluation to improve state capabilities to manage polluted runoff and reduce coastal water pollution. Working with other Federal partners, NOAA is committed to providing states with the technical tools and resources they need to implement measures that have a reasonable likelihood of solving our coastal water quality problems.

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